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October 14, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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**Art Unit 1653**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/903,864; filed July 13, 2001  
For: **Methods and Compositions for Rapid Protein and Peptide Extraction  
and Isolation Using a Lysis Matrix**  
Inventors: Blakesley *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.5050002/RWE/ALS

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Reply To Restriction Requirement;
4. Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
5. Form PTO-1449 (1 sheet) and accompanying (2) references;
6. Return postcard; and
7. Form PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form for \$110.00 to cover the fee for an extension for response within first month (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)).

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are

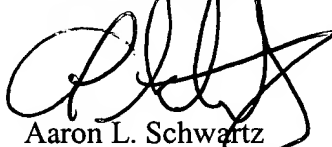
Commissioner for Patents  
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necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Schwartz', is written over the printed name.

Aaron L. Schwartz  
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Enclosures